

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, February 9, 2006

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 9, 2006, at 6:30 p.m., at Samaritan Center, 5555 Conner, Detroit, Michigan 48213.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Erminia Ramirez **(ABS)**
Jim Holley
Mohamed Okdie **(ABS)**
Willie Hampton **(ABS)**
Arthur Blackwell II

Department Personnel Present

AC Walter Martin
AC George A. Hall Jr.
AC Gary Christian
DC Robert Dunlap
DC Brenda Goss-Andrews
DC Chester Logan
DC Tony Saunders
DC Claudia Barden-Jackson
DC Joyce Motley
DC Ralph Godbee
DC Billy McFarley
DC Marshall Lyons
DC James Tate
Cmdr. John Serda
Cmdr. Hope Facen-Berry
Cmdr. Leo Powers
Cmdr. Ricky Brown
Cmdr. Eric Ewing
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Cmdr. Troy Quinn
Lt. Vicki Yost
Lt. Roscoe Mayfield
Sgt. Eren Stephens
Sgt. John Faulk
Sgt. Tonya Golfen
Sgt. Romel Alexander
Sgt. Paul Johnson
P.O. Sophia Nelms
P.O. Mark Estrada
P.O. Maureen Whitten

P.O. Douglas Williams
P.O. Godfrey Qualls
P.O. Peggy Cander
P.O. Ron Griffin
P.O. Jerome Collins
P.O. Barron Townsend
P.O. Omari Artist

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv.
Ainsley Cromwell, Acting Chief Investigator
Victoria Scott-Miller, Senior Inv./Comm. Relations
P.O. Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Bishop Tony Russell	Valerie Russell
Ron Scott	Marianne McGuire
Margarette Taylor	Arlene Arrington
Frank Hoskins	David Jackson

RECORDERS

Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson Holley called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:55 pm.

Vice-Chairperson Holley acknowledged the presence of Board members and staff.

Vice-Chairperson Holly asked if Mr. Patrick Wardle of Samaritan Center or is there anyone here to represent the Center. He thanked Mr. Wardle, Facility Manager of Samaritan Center, for hosting this community meeting.

Comm. Blackwell read the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for January 26, 2006 and February 2, 2006, were tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

RESOLUTIONS HONORING

Bishop Tony Russell

WHEREAS Bishop Tony Russell has been a resident and community leader in the city of Detroit for over 42 years; and

WHEREAS Bishop Russell, along with his lovely wife, Mrs. Valerie J. Russell, pastors the New Covenant of Peace World Impact Ministries in Detroit, and

WHEREAS Bishop Russell has consistently shown dedicated leadership through various initiatives and community actions, such as founding Community In Action (CIA) as a means of helping residents form community block clubs. The role of the CIA has since expanded: it has become a permanent sub-committee of the Eastern District Weed and Seed strategy, and has also formed a Media Center to assist community block clubs with hosting meetings and addressing communication needs; and

WHEREAS Bishop Russell is devoted to empowering the youth in the community, and demonstrated his dedication by establishing the "Higher Expectations After School Program," which works with over 30 students between the ages of six and seventeen; and

WHEREAS Bishop Russell has opened the doors of his church to the Eastern District by furnishing office space for the Weed and Seed Program, and also by allowing the district to use space at the church to store and distribute "Toys for Tots" to needy children in the community; and

WHEREAS Bishop Russell and his ministry have also been instrumental in providing for the less fortunate by, among other things, providing food to at least 50 families in the community, and by providing transportation for children in the Eastern District to various sporting events.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the generous spirit of Bishop Tony Russell. His unselfishness and dedication to improving the quality of life for all citizens in his community and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Bishop Tony Russell.

/s/ Erminia Ramirez
Chairperson

/s/ Rev. Jim Holley
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Mohamed Okdie
Commissioner

/s/ Willie Hampton
Commissioner

**ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
February 9, 2006**

/s/ Arthur Blackwell, II
Commissioner

Deputy Chief Godbee presented Bishop Russell with the Spirit of Detroit Award on behalf of City Council.

Bishop Russell thanked everyone for recognizing him.

The adoption of the Resolution for Bishop Russell was tabled because there was no quorum.

Sergeant Lawrence Semczak

WHEREAS Sergeant Lawrence Semczak retired from the Detroit Police Department on October 31, 2005, after thirty-six (36) years of exemplary service to the Detroit Police Department and the citizens of Detroit; and

WHEREAS Lawrence Semczak was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on September 8, 1969. Upon graduation from the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy, Officer Semczak was assigned to the Eastern District Morality Unit; and

WHEREAS Officer Semczak's other assignments included stints with the Vice Section, the Office of the Deputy Chief – Headquarters Bureau, the Tactical Operations Section, and the Crime Analysis and Prevention Section. Officer Semczak's specialized training did not go unnoticed and in 1979, he was assigned to Special Duty with the Organized Crime Section where he served for approximately four and a half years before being assigned to the Mayor's Security Detail; and

WHEREAS On October 9, 1987, Officer Lawrence Semczak was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and remained with the Mayor's Security Section until his transfer to the Vice (Organized Crime) Section in 1989. In 1991, he was assigned to the Seventh Precinct; and

WHEREAS In January 1993, Sergeant Semczak was assigned to the Firearms Section where he served with distinction until his retirement. Known affectionately as the "Firearms Master," Sergeant Semczak's vast knowledge of firearms, skills and ability to train in both the classroom and on the range, were unrivaled. He was widely sought after for his expertise, advising new and seasoned officers, as well as his peers in the law enforcement community; and

WHEREAS During his 36 years of service, Sergeant Semczak received a number of Commendations and letters of appreciation, including the 1980 GOP Commemorative Award, three Chief Unit Awards, two Chief Merit Awards, two Command Unit Awards, one Departmental Citation, and eight Perfect Attendance Awards; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the loyalty, integrity, and professionalism of Sergeant Lawrence Semczak. His outstanding commitment, dedication and tireless service merit our highest regards and best wishes for continued success.

We salute and congratulate you, Sergeant Lawrence Semczak.

/s/ Erminia Ramirez
Chairperson

/s/ Rev. Jim Holley
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Mohamed Okdie
Commissioner

/s/ Willie Hampton
Commissioner

ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS /s/ Arthur Blackwell, II
February 9, 2006 Commissioner

The adoption of the Resolution for Sergeant Semczak was tabled because there was no quorum.

4. **SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS**

On January 24, 2006, Internal Affairs was notified of an allegation of misconduct on the part of Police Officer Richard Tucker, badge 3168 and Police Officer Bruce DeBouvre, badge 31, both assigned to the Eastern District. More specifically, the complaint alleged that Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre did, while on-duty; neglect to perform the duties required of a police officer. Based on the complaint, Internal Affairs initiated an investigation, which revealed the following:

On January 23, 2006 at approximately 11:45 a.m., Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre responded to a police run concerning a "home invasion in progress," in the 10000 block of Somerset in the City of Detroit. They were the primary response unit, but were met at the scene by a secondary response unit due to officer safety.

Upon arriving at the scene, the complainant advised Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre that after she dropped her children off at school, she returned home, unlocked the front entry door and observed her former boyfriend (hereinafter subject) dismantling her electronic equipment. The complainant reported that she observed the subject run downstairs to the basement. She promptly exited her home and stood watch, at the side, to ensure that the subject did not escape. Further, the complainant advised that she flagged down a passing car to assist her in contacting emergency services.

The complainant also advised Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre of the following:

- that there was a car in her garage that was not there this morning;
- that there was a gun in the car;
- that the steering column of the car was damaged and that the car was probably stolen;
- that the subject was responsible for the rash of armed robberies in the area;

- that the stolen property taken in the armed robberies was in her home and that the subject was still in her home;

Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre searched the home and were unable to locate the subject. After the search of the premises, the secondary unit left the scene.

While in the home, the complainant advised both officers that the subject had stolen property but, at that point, she was unable to specifically identify the stolen property. No further action was taken by Officer Tucker or Officer DeBouvre with respect to the property alleged to have been stolen that was in the complainant's home.

Both officers accompanied the complainant to the garage and confiscated a weapon from the vehicle, but no further action was taken by the officers with respect to the vehicle. While in the garage, the complainant showed the officers the property that was alleged to have been stolen in armed robberies in the area committed by the subject. The property consisted of the following:

- Purse with identification and two (2) cellular telephones
- Disney Wallet with miscellaneous paperwork
- St. John's Providence Hospital identification badge
- Purse with wallet, identification, and miscellaneous paperwork

No further action was taken by Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre with respect to the alleged stolen property.

The two officers advised the complainant that since there was no sign of forced entry into her home, no items were taken, the subject's vehicle was still at the home, and the nature of her complaint was domestic related, she would have to file for a Personal Protection Order (hereinafter PPO).

Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre noted on their Activity Log Sheet the license plate number of the vehicle, that there was a domestic dispute, that there was no forced entry and that there were no items were taken. The officers continued their tour of duty and took no further action with respect to this incident.

The complainant came into the Eastern District the following day to get a copy of the police report. She spoke to Sergeant Joe Wright, badge S-7 of the Eastern District. Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre were not on duty. Sergeant Wright searched for a copy of the police report to no avail. He eventually discovered that no police report had been written. The complainant relayed the circumstances to Sergeant Wright, as outlined above. In response, Sergeant Wright called Officer Tucker and inquired into the whereabouts of the weapon. Officer Tucker advised Sergeant Wright

that the weapon was a pellet gun and that he left it in the report room and did not place it on evidence. The report room was searched but no pellet gun was found. Officer Tucker arrived at the Eastern District and removed the pellet gun from his pocket. He indicated that he retrieved it from the trash bin that was in the report room. At this time, the pellet gun was placed on evidence.

Next, Sergeant Wright went to the complainant's home and noticed that there was forced entry via a window in the basement.

The complainant identified the following stolen property that was in her home to Sergeant Wright:

- White fur jacket, brown fur wrap, and faux fur coat
- Thirteen (13) inch television
- Nintendo with two (2) controllers
- Ten (10) video games
- DVD player
- Seventy-five (75) plus DVD's
- Portable CD player
- Forty plus CD's
- Gold ring
- Purse, money, tax forms, and cellular telephone

Sergeant Wright conducted an investigation of the above property. He accessed the Law Enforcement Information System (hereinafter LEIN) and confirmed that the property had in fact been reported as stolen. The property was placed on evidence.

With respect to the vehicle, Sergeant Wright observed that the steering column of the vehicle was damaged and the door lock was hanging loose, which indicated that the vehicle had been stolen. Sergeant Wright accessed the LEIN and confirmed that the vehicle was reported stolen on January 23, 2006. Sergeant Wright impounded the vehicle and completed a police report.

The subject was subsequently arrested and charged with Robbery Armed and Home Invasion.

Based on the above circumstances, it is recommended that Officer Tucker and Officer DeBouvre be charged with, but not limited to the following violation of the Detroit Police Department Rules and Regulations:

**CHARGE: CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER; CONTRARY TO THE
LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS, THIS BEING IN**

**VIOLATION OF THE DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT
MANUAL, SERIES 100, DIRECTIVE 102.3-7.9, CONDUCT,
UNPROFESSIONAL, COMMAND 1.**

Due to the seriousness of the conduct, I am requesting your concurrence with the suspension of Officer Richard Tucker and Officer Bruce DeBouvre **WITHOUT PAY**, effective February 9, 2006.

Unless contravened by this Commission, the above suspensions **without pay** will stand.

Exec. Dir. Goss stated for the record that both officers reserved their rights for oral arguments at the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
2006 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	39	154
2005 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	24	112

- The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) closed a total of **29** cases this week.
- The Office of the Chief Investigator submitted **4** cases to the Chief's Office.
- The Chief's Office has reviewed and returned **0** cases to OCI.

5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE

February 9, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 6

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Narcotics/ Gang Enforcement

During the period of January 30, 2006 through February 05, 2006, Narcotics / Gang Enforcement conducted 23 search warrants and 15 street enforcement actions within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 16 Felony arrests
- 76 Misdemeanor arrests
- 3 Juveniles detained
- 42.80 grams of cocaine, 31.9 grams of heroin, and 550.00 grams of marijuana, street value
- **\$76,740.60**
- **\$6,897.00** in U.S. Currency

Confiscated:

- 13 Handguns

Homicide

On February 1st, as a result of an investigation from June 25, 2005 on “Youths Being Chased,” officers of the Southwestern District arrested two men who were charged with “First Degree Murder” and “Conspiracy to Homicide-Murder First Degree.” Officers responded to the area of West Vernor and Junction, when they observed a man on the ground injured. An investigation revealed that all of the men were at a function when a struggle ensued and a man was stabbed multiple times. The man was taken to the hospital, where he later died from his injuries.

Special points of interest:

• Next meeting:

Thursday, February 16, 2006
@3:00 P.M.

Detroit Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien, Suite 328A
Detroit, Michigan 48226

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Domestic Violence

On February 1st, officers from the Eastern District responded to the 21000 block of Moross on an “Breaking and Entering in Progress.” An investigation revealed a woman woke up to find her child’s father in her home. The woman grabbed her cell phone, escaped, and called 9-1-1. The man threatened the woman’s life in front of the officers. Subsequent to the investigation, the man was arrested and assaulted one of the officers, while being taken into custody. The man was charged with “Resisting Arrest” and “Domestic Violence Habitual 3rd.”

OPERATION GUN STOP
**PEOPLE WITH ILLEGAL GUNS!**
\$500 REWARD
For information leading to arrest warrant for a person with an illegal gun.
DETROIT POLICE
OPERATION GUN STOP
1-800 SPEAKUP
(Ask for Operation Gun Stop)
COMPLETELY ANONYMOUS
STOP THE VIOLENCE!


February 9, 2006

Police / Community Intervention

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Eastern District

On February 3rd, officers of the Eastern District responded to the area of Celestine and Fordham on a "Shooting." An investigation revealed that two men had a verbal dispute, when one of the men armed with a handgun, shot the other. The man fled in a vehicle. Officers later observed the man's vehicle. **As a result of the investigation, the man was arrested without incident and charged with "Aggravated Felonious Assault."** The man shot was taken to the hospital to be treated for his injuries.



Northeastern District

On January 31st, officers of the Northeastern District responded to the 3900 block of E. Outer Drive on an "Breaking and Entering Alarm." Officers arrived at the location, discovered the rear door open and observed a vehicle with two men inside, leaving the location with their lights off. The officers approached the vehicle when the men sped off, items taken from the location flew from the back of the vehicle onto the road. The men stopped the vehicle and fled on foot. **As a result of the investigation, both men were arrested without incident and charged with "Break and Entering," "Receiving and Concealing Stolen Property Motor Vehicle," and "Felony Motor Vehicle Advisory."**

Sex Crimes

On February 3rd, officers of the Northwestern District responded to the area of West 7 Mile and Huntington on a "Criminal Sexual Conduct" run. An investigation revealed that a female was walking, when she was approached by two men and a female. The men carried her to the back of an isolated area, where one of the men, armed with a handgun, pointed it at her and forced her to remove her clothes, then sexually assaulted her. The woman ran for help and called 9-1-1 and was taken to the hospital to be treated. **As a result of the investigation, a woman was placed in custody without incident.**

Western District

On February 3rd, officers of the Western District responded to the area of Mendota and West Outer Drive on an "Breaking and Entering" in progress. The officers checked the school for forced entry and observed a window forced open and the items inside pushed back. Officers observed a man and vehicle fitting the description involved in the incident. **As a result of the investigation, the man was arrested without incident and charged with "Breaking and Entering."**



Southwestern District

On February 6th, officers of the Southwestern District responded to the 8500 block of Strathmoor on a "Person with a weapon." Officers were given a description of the vehicle and man involved. Officers conducted a traffic stop of vehicle failing to enter roadway without signaling that matched the description given. The driver gave officers consent to search vehicle, a handgun was observed in plain view. The men did not have a permit for the handgun. **Subsequent to the investigation, both men were arrested without incident for "Carrying a Concealed Weapon." Confiscated was a handgun.**



Northwestern District

On February 1st, officers of the Northwestern District responded to the area of the Greenfield and Diversey on an "Attempt Armed Robbery Citizen." An investigation revealed that a man approached a woman and placed an unknown object to her back and demanded her personal belongings. The man proceeded to search the woman's pocket for her possessions, found nothing and walked away. **As a result of the investigation, the man was arrested without incident. While in custody, the man broke the protective window of cell, making it unsafe to use. The man charged with "Assault with Intent to Rob-Unarmed" and Malicious Destruction of Police Property."**

Vice-Chairperson Holley stated that Comm. Blackwell would like to say a few words on the great job the police department did during the Super Bowl.

Comm. Blackwell stated that on behalf of the Board of Police Commissioners he would like to thank Mayor Kilpatrick, Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, Asst. Chief George Hall, Jr., Asst. Chief Walter Martin, Asst. Chief Gary Christian, Deputy Chiefs, Commanders and the line officers who were out there during the Super Bowl. He stated that he saw some Deputy Chiefs out on the streets directing traffic. He stated people saw that the City was committed to safety and traffic control. The police department has received great reviews from the media that were here for the Super Bowl. He stated to the community we should be able to take this same approach to the neighborhoods. He stated to everyone who was present to take a minute and thank the police department for a great job they did.

6. QUARTERLY AWARDS-PUBLIC INFORMATION

2nd DC James Tate presented Quarterly Awards to the Following:

Civilians

Mr. Vincent Dysard

Investigator

Sgt. John Falk
Inv. Michelle Baker

Police Officers

Barron Townsend, Western District; Douglas Williams, Northwestern District; Maureen Whitten, Southwestern District; Mark Estrada, Eastern District; Godfrey Qualls, Northeastern District; Omari Artist, Central District

7. PRESENTATION/REPORT –EASTERN DISTRICT

DC Godbee gave a brief overview of the Eastern District and current endeavors. He also introduced his staff members.

The Western District encompasses 24 square miles and has approximately 183,000 people, and has 55 schools including (4) high schools, (7) middle schools and (10) parochial schools. The Eastern District also has Golightly Technical Center, and Wayne County Community College District's Eastern Campus.

The Eastern District has undertaken the following initiatives to reduce crime:

- Special Operations units and patrol conduct wrap around operations of addresses within the district that were raided by Narcotics and locations of known narcotics activity.
- The Eastern District has a Breaking and Entering (B &E) task force who follow-up with Home Invasion and B& E victims, to gain additional information and evidence.
- Community Relations officers sent contact letters to Home Invasion and B & E victims offering home security and business surveys.
- In an effort to revitalize the block club and community watch movement Community Relations Officers contacted inactive block clubs and reestablished neighborhood and business watch groups in areas of high Home Invasion and B& E's.
- The Eastern District B.U.O.Y Organization in conjunction with Community Relations Officers sponsored a football team for at-risk middle school students between the age of 8 and 14 years of age. Participants were required to maintain a 2.5 grade point average.
- Community relations officers and the Weed and Seed Organization sponsored a basketball league, bowling league, baseball league, conflict resolution and gun violence abatement seminars in elementary and middle schools.
- The school rangers conducted sweeps for Minors Unlawful in Public Place (M.U.P.P.), and issued more than 150 Ordinance Violation Notices in the last quarter of 2005.

8. REQUEST TO RE-APPLY FOR G.R.E.A.T. GRANT VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The grant request was tabled until next meeting.

9. REQUEST TO RE-APPLY FOR GRANT FROM OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION-VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The grant request was tabled until next meeting.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, February 16, 2006 @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters, Room 328-A
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, MI 48226

12. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

Frank Hoskins stated he wanted to thank the DPD for giving them the opportunity to make money during the Super Bowl by not needlessly harassing them. He witnessed an incident between an officer and a cab driver, where the officer was actually wrong in his approach. The officer later came back and apologized. The cab driver was impressed and respected that the officer could apologize instead of leaving a negative impression.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb